



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade  
and Consumer Protection  
*Division of Animal Health*



## AVIAN INFLUENZA INFORMATION SHEET

### Avian Influenza H5N2 and Human Health

#### FAST FACTS:

- Avian influenza is a highly contagious disease to domestic poultry, most frequently resulting in death.
- There are no apparent risks with this particular strain (H5N2) to human health from domestic poultry or domestic poultry products at this time.
- Avian influenza H5N2 primarily spreads through direct contact with infected birds or through contact with contaminated bedding, feed or water.
- Several thousand workers have responded to this situation and have worked with and among the infected birds, but no human cases of infection with this strain have been detected in the United States or other countries.
- Some other strains of avian influenza have infected people causing mild to severe respiratory illness, fever, aches and red, itchy eyes.
- Influenza viruses can be unpredictable, therefore response workers are given the option to take anti-viral medications, but it is not mandatory.
- Personal protective equipment and respirators are worn by response workers to protect them from dirt, dust, manure and other materials found in chicken barns.
- All poultry, poultry products and wild birds are safe to eat as long as they are properly handled and cooked to a temperature of 165°F.

**For more information about all aspects of avian influenza, visit [datcp.wi.gov](http://datcp.wi.gov).**

**If you find a sick or dead bird, don't touch it, report it.**

**Domestic birds:** Wisconsin DATCP—Division of Animal Health  
**1-800-572-8981**

**Wild birds:** Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
**1-800-433-1610**

